

Message Text

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DEPT PASS AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS WITH SOVIETS ON SECURITY COUNCIL MIDDLE
EAST DEBATE

REF: STATE 006810

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, AMB BENNETT AND MISOFF MET WITH SMUN
DEPUTY PERMREP OVINNIKOV AND MFA OFFICIAL PYRLIN BEFORE
JANUARY 12 SC MEETING. WHILE EXCHANGE OPENED DOOR TO FURTHER
CONSULTATION, WHICH MAY PROVE USEFUL, IT BROKE NO NEW
GROUND SUBSTANTIVELY.

2. OVINNIKOV MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. US AND USSR POSITIONS HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. LIKE U.S.,
USSR DESIRES RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, DOES
NOT CONSIDER SECURITY COUNCIL A SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA
NEGOTIATIONS, AND SUPPORTS RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.
USSR ALSO SHARES US VIEW THAT SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE
SHOULD NOT BECOME A PROPAGANDA EXERCISE THAT WOULD UNDERMINE
GENEVA.

B. THE QUESTION FACING US WAS WHAT KIND OF RESOLUTION SC
SHOULD ADOPT. USSR WOULD LIKE TO SEE COUNCIL REAFFIRM 242
AND 338 AND CALL FOR RECONVENING OF GENEVA. HOWEVER,
SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL CLEARLY WAS NEEDED.

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3. BENNETT CLOSELY FOLLOWED POINTS IN REFTEL. WHEN HE

DESCRIBED DRAFT RESOLUTION US WOULD LIKE TO EMERGE FROM DEBATE, OVINNIKOV SAID THERE WAS "MISSING ELEMENT" WHICH US SEEMED TO BE AVOIDING. DESPITE PROBING, HOWEVER, OVINNIKOV WOULD NOT BE SPECIFIC AS TO MISSING ELEMENT.

4. BENNETT AND OVINNIKOV AGREED THAT EXCHANGE WAS USEFUL AND MISSIONS WOULD STAY IN TOUCH. CONVERSATION WAS CORDIAL AND EASY THROUGHOUT. TONE AND ATMOSPHERE WERE MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM MALIK'S LATER CONDUCT IN OPEN SC MEETING, AS WELL AS HIS BEHAVIOR IN MORNING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. MOYNIHAN

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